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VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB

VACAVILLE , CALIFORNIA

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February 2014

President's Message,

What a boring Super Blow Out it was this past Sunday (unless you are a "Weed" Hawk Fan) and the commercials were disappointing also. All in all a very boring game…*"How do you keep a Denver Bronco out of your yard? Put up goal posts!"* Enough Super Bowl, back to radio stuff.

We are going to have a pre-meeting dinner Thursday (02/13/2014) 5:30 PM, at the Round Table Pizza parlor, 3045 Alamo Drive, Vacaville, cross of Nut Tree Road, next to Raley's Grocery Store. Everyone seemed to have a fun time last month, so I thought we would try it again. I'll be looking at different locations through out the year for our pre-meeting dinners. Remember it's all about Amateur Radio fellowship. Our guest speakers this month will be Art Mayoff AB6HB and Mike Paquette KK6DCM from the Benicia Amateur Radio Club. Art and Mike will be demonstrating how to build DF antennas in unusual ways. This should be a very entertaining program.

We should have a Field Day site picked out in the next couple of weeks. We are looking at locations that are easily accessible to the public and interesting for all. Our Media Guy, Frank KJ6EWQ, will be promoting this event through our newfound social media blitz.
If you would like to chat on-line about the VVRC, go to our new Twitter account @w6vvr and chat away. Also we have a Facebook account, just go to Facebook and search for w6vvr and there you are. One other thing is we also have a "blog", that's right a "blog", just do a Google search for Vaca Valley Radio Club Blog and enter your email address to follow all the comments. We are now in the 21st Century thanks to Frank KJ6EWQ our media guru guy.
Thanks to everyone for making this a great club,
Mike W6MAV
Contact me anytime at, w6mav@arrl.net

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
AS OF January 31, 2014

	GENERAL FUND	REPEATER FUND	PRIZE FUND	TOTAL GEN/RPTR
YTD Paid	25.56	0.00	0.00	25.56
YTD Received	392.00	232.00	28.00	624.00
Difference	366.44	232.00	28.00	598.44
Year To Date	2468.10	848.00	28.00	3316.10

IN THIS ISSUE:

Coming Soon-President's Message and Meeting Minutes----------1
Treasurer's Report----------1
Those Liability Waivers----------2
Concern Over Massive Power Surge-------3
ARRL Centennial QSO Party----------4
QSL Bureaus----------5
FCC Retiring Transistion Web Page-------5
Application and Misc----------6

Public Service Events: Those Liability Waivers

"Be sure to pick up your T-shirt and sign your volunteer form before the event." Any ham who works public service events like marathons and bike rides has probably heard similar words. Part of the event ritual is a meeting, often an early breakfast the morning of the event, where the communications coordinator sits at a table with a pile of shirts and a stack of forms provided by the served organization. As I have witnessed this ritual, I have seen great care shown over whether the shirt is the right size, but the form is signed without so much as a quick read. Most people have a vague understanding that the form includes some kind of waiver or release of the served organization, but what are you really waiving or giving up in exchange for the privilege of helping this entity? Perhaps more importantly, what liabilities are you taking on when you sign the form? The answer varies with the wording of the form and the law of each jurisdiction, but in many cases you are giving up a great deal and in some cases, you may be putting everything you have at risk.

In most instances, people are entitled to damages if they are injured due to the negligence of another person or organization and they are liable for injuries to others if they were negligent in causing those injuries. People or organizations are not liable if they or someone for whom they are legally responsible (like an employee) was not at fault. The pieces of paper we sign before events are contracts that change these rules, sometimes profoundly, and never, in my experience, in favor of the volunteer.

Most every form includes a waiver or release of liability in favor of the event organizer. What if you get hurt? You are probably out of luck, even if you were blameless and the sponsoring organization was negligent. If you incur millions in medical expenses and can never work again, you will have to rely on your own assets and insurance to help you out, because you have given up your rights against the negligent parties and their insurance companies.

Some forms include broad indemnity agreements. I have seen forms that have said that the ham volunteer would be responsible for any claims arising from or related to the participation of the ham in the event, even if the claim arose solely from the negligence of the event organizer. Let's say you properly set up your portable tower in accordance with all codes and standards. An employee of the event organizer, who has never driven a truck before, loses control of a box truck while driving and texting his girlfriend at the same time and hits your tower, knocking it over on a bystander and permanently disabling him. The event organizer is sued and has a multi-million dollar judgment rendered against them. If you signed the form, you could get the bill for the judgment, the organization's costs and their attorneys' fees. Particularly troubling is that the liability insurance policies many of us have may not cover liabilities assumed by contract, so your insurance company would not help you if you are the victim of such a form.

In some cases, when I have seen language like that early enough, I have been able to discuss it with the event organizer and get the form changed. Usually this is after I have persisted against the initial "that's not what we really mean" or "it might say that, but we would never do that" or "I don't know, we had a lawyer draw it up." I have also seen hams sign forms with these provisions without a second thought.

What is the answer? Probably the right answer is that in exchange for your volunteer service, the sponsoring organization should ensure that you are covered by their insurance for claims asserted against you. They should do the right thing if you are injured by their fault while in their service. That is probably not going to happen in most cases. What kind of risk any person takes on or what kind of claims one will release in advance is ultimately a personal decision based on your financial resources and personal insurance coverage. You should know what insurance coverage you have in the event you are hurt or in the event you hurt somebody else and how that coverage could be impacted by any forms you sign. Organizers should provide their form well in advance. That way, the hams can get a

Continued on page 5

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VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB--2014

ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Mike Vieria, W6MAV
Vice President: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Secretary: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director: Antonio DelRio, N6ZGB
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Arthur Miller, KI6UXE
Director: Richard Craig, KJ6MIB

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Club Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

Concern grows over possibility of a massive power surge

Jerry KJ6SCC
Ref: evan.halper@latimes.com

At a recent conference in Washington, officials discussed the potential danger of a massive solar storm and its potential effect on the power grid. (NASA / January 23, 2012)

An epic power outage caused by a surge of magnetic current would fry the power grid . More than the lights would go out. All electronics could malfunction. Cars might not run. GPS systems would fail. Generators would soon be of no use, as gas pumps would stop working. The disruption could last a year or more. There would be looting, rioting, a general societal collapse.

The ranks of those concerned that the country is on a collision course with a dangerous electromagnetic surge have increased considerably of late. The idea that the power system is at risk has been drawing a wider audience. Regulators have begun scrambling to put a plan in place. In the case of electronic pulses, the most sober warnings come from government weather scientists. An almost inevitably, these solar storms take place roughly every 150 years. The last one was 155 years ago.

In 1989, the Hydro-Quebec power grid in Canada collapsed in less than two minutes from a solar storm and six million people were without power for nine hours. A bigger event could knock out multiple transformers — so many, perhaps, that backup systems would be overwhelmed. Replacing them could take months.

In July 2012, a massive ejection from a solar storm headed toward Earth. It missed Earth's orbital position by seven days.

But the Solar storm is not the only possible threat to the power grid. A similar electromagnetic pulse caused by a terrorist act with a nuclear weapon could unleash a high-altitude explosion that would create a pulse large enough to mimic the impact of a massive solar storm.

Ok...so much for the doom and gloom scenarios.

Typically, the American people are sadly unprepared by disasters as has been seen over the last few years by flood, fire, earthquakes, volcanos, typhoons, and hurricanes!

So...that brings up the question, How many of you have made any preparations for a disaster. Have any of you built the Faraday shield profiled in an article in the May 2013 issue of the Repeater with a metal garbage can to protect some of your transistorized ham equipment. How many of you have at least one vintage tube operated transceiver? I think I know the answer!

You can view the you tube video about how to build the Faraday shield at

www.youtube.com/watch?v=EoQZY1ft13c

Ye old Geezerham Sez:Wha Hoppen??!?

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browsw our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Elmira Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: vacavalleyradio.net

Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-)
WV6F 440.025(+)
WV6F 1291.900(-)

THE BIT BUCKET

ARRL Centennial QSO Party

Date: Jan 15, 2014 5:34 AMGreetings East Bay Amateurs. Many of you are aware that the ARRL is sponsoring a number of eventsfor its 100th anniversary.

More information on the overall program isprovided here. http://www.arrl.org/centennial-QSO-party One of the programs you may or may not be aware of is the centennialpoints challenge. ARRL members can work other ARRL members andleadership for points. Different awards can be applied for at the endof the year, and the awards will be handed out in 500pt increments. Different membership levels equal different point levels, starting with1 point for ARRL members, to 300 points for the ARRL president. AllSection Managers, including East Bay SM Jim Latham AF6AQ, are worth 175points. All Assistant Section Managers, like me, are 35 points, VEs 5points.

Hopefully you get the picture. A complete chart and pointmatrix is available on the above provided link. All of the QSO's needto be simplex (e.g. No repeater contacts), but they can be in themode/band of your choice otherwise.

There are some thoughts I would like to pass along to arm you forsuccess.If you wish, you may keep simple records of your QSOs on your own paperor computer documents and score them yourself. If you do this, though,your score will not be published. If you'd like to get the maximum benefit from this event, here are two points to observe:

1. All of your QSO's need to be logged properly with a program that cangenerate an ADIF file. There are plenty of logging programs out therethat can do this; here are a couple of links to some.

a) N1MM logger - Probably the most comprehensive and well supportedcontest loggers, and the best part, its free!http://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php There are extensive support documents for this program, and comeshighly recommended for this and most contests out there.

b) N3FJP logging softwarehttp://www.n3fjp.com I find N3FJP Softwares VHF contest logging software particularly wellsuited for VHF contests such as the upcoming January VHF sweepstakes. It is worth a look for sure.

c) Wintesthttp://www/win-test.com Wintest is another popular logging program used by many, if you likethe layout this one may be for you. There are many more out there, but this is a good start. Check themout and see what works for you!

2. All of your centennial point QSO's and QSL's must be uploaded andverified by the ARRL's Logbook of the World. LOTW is simply awesome. Getting set up takes a few steps, but oncedone takes all of the work that used to be done by mailing qsl cards,and handles the tasks electronically. Both parties upload their QSOdata to LOTW, and if there is a match.. BAM! Your QSL is confirmed andfully supported by all ARRL awards programs.

You will want to uploadall your data to LOTW by the end of the year, so get started with yourset up as soon as possible. ARRL logbook of the World can be found here http://www.arrl.org/lotw and specific instructions on getting setup can be found here:http://www.arrl.org/instructions

This weekend is the ARRL January VHF sweepstakes. This couldbe a great opportunity to get your feet wet by

a) working and learningabout contests, and b) working other ARRL and leadership for centennialQSO points! Complete information for the January VHF sweepstakes can be found herehttp://www.arrl.org/january-vhf Here you can find rules, bands, modes, log submission instructions andeverything else to start having fun contesting VHF style. And the bestthing, its VHF and most will have equipment, even an HT to get on theair and work some contest QSO's.

Look for more information on East Bay centennial QSO points challengeactivity throughout the year. Remember the most important rule incontesting and any award program is.

HAVE FUN! If you need assistance with any of this, please don't hesitate tocontact any of the East Bay Section leadership, and we will do our bestto help you have fun on the air. 73 and good luck!

Chris TateN6WMAssistant Section Manager (DX and Contesting)ARRL East Bay SectionARRL East Bay SectionSection Manager: James R Latham, AF6AQaf6aq@arrl.org

NET CONTROL OPERATORS

1st week of month-Jerry Bowen; KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Richard Craig; KJ6MIB
3rd week of month-Frank Garay; KJ6RWQ
4th week of month-Marcus MacLean; KI6WDX
On months with 5 weeks-Bob Hewitt; K6HEW

QSL Bureaus

By Jerry Olive, KD6WKY

I just received a fat envelope of QSL cards from the 6th District QSL Bureau today with about 64 QSL cards inside. I typically get two envelopes per year from the bureau; one in the summer and one in the winter.

As usual about half of the cards are JA QSL cards, the Japanese love sending and receiving QSL cards. The remainder of the batch were cards from around the world.

I have used the ARRL Outgoing and Incoming QSL Bureaus for over 20 years and have been satisfied with the method of volunteer sorters around the world helping fellow radio amateurs send and receive QSL cards.

There are times when you must go directly to the other station or via a QSL manager for a QSL card, but most of the time the bureau works just fine.

If you are participating in the ARRL Centennial QSO Party by working each of the stations as W1AW moves around the country, the confirming QSL cards will be sent out via the QSL Bureaus next year when the QSO Party is complete.

Contact me if you need more information about how to QSL. 73

Nuts! I didn't Win the contest

FCC Retiring the transition.fcc.gov Front Page

From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT January 31, 2014To all radio amateurs

FCC Retiring the transition.fcc.gov Front PageThe FCC has announced that it is transitioning away from itsso-called "transition website" front page, which has been in placefor the last 3 years.

The Commission said the move, startingFebruary 3, is in line with its plans to gradually wean users fromthe transition website."All content formerly on the old transition front page - includinglinks to our most popular tools and resources - is available on theFCC.gov home page, and personal bookmarks to items once featured onthe old page will continue to work," the FCC has said. "StartingFebruary 3, the transition front page will redirect automatically tothe FCC.gov home page at http://www.fcc.gov/ .

For those whocontinue to use transition.fcc.gov, please note that this actionaffects only one page of the transition site - the front page."The FCC introduced its new website design in 2011, running it inparallel with the old design that users had become familiar withover the many years it's been in place.

The FCC said its decisionnow to phase out the transition front page was based on a steadydecline in usage, since the initial FCC website redesign.Also starting February 3, the FCC will replace the transition linkin the top right corner with a link to the FCC Phonebook at:

http://www.fcc.gov/finding-people-fcc ,

making that resourceavailable on virtually every FCC.gov page. The FCC invites feedbackon its website at webfeedback@fcc.gov .NNNN/EX

Those Liability Waivers continued from page 3

legal opinion either individually or collectively as to what they are giving up or taking on when they sign it. With this knowledge, volunteers can make an informed decision as to whether they want to sign it, ask for changes, or simply pass on the event.

This article is intended to provide general awareness and is not intended as legal advice for any particular situation. Consult legal counsel of your own choosing to determine what impact signing a particular document might have on you. — *Matt Woodruff, KA5YYD, Houston, Texas* [Woodruff is a corporate attorney for governmental affairs - ed.]

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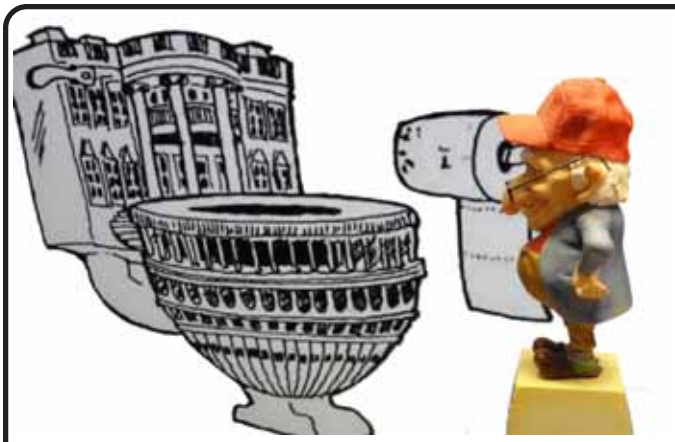

Ye old Geezerham Sez:
Giving money and power to the guvmint is like Flushing it away or giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys

Feds to decide on car-to-car communications

Well, this isn't ham news but it is another form of communication

Federal officials are planning to announce whether automakers should be required to equip new cars and light trucks with technology that enables vehicles to communicate with each other to prevent collisions. Such vehicle-to-vehicle communication promises to transform traffic safety.

The Department of Transportation has scheduled the announcement for midday Monday. Transportation officials estimate the technology could prevent up to 80 percent of accidents that don't involve drunken drivers or mechanical failure.

A transponder would continually transmit the vehicle's position, heading, speed and other information 10 times per second in all directions using dedicated radio spectrum similar to Wi-Fi. Cars would receive the same information back from other vehicles. A vehicle's computer would alert the driver to an impending collision. Some systems could automatically brake to avoid an accident.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____

Street:
_____

City: _____Zip:
_____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)

License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)

E-Mail
Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues	$20.00	_____
Each Family Member	$ 2.00	_____
Student	$ 5.00	_____
Repeater/Autopatch donation		_____
Call/Name badge	$11.00	_____

Optional ARRL membership

ARRL dues	$37.00	
Total		_____

Paid by CASH: Check # _____

DATE: _____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143